



Alberta-Saxony intercultural internship Alliance (ASiiA) Program

Youth Mobility Visa FAQ

The following are responses to frequently asked questions asked by Albertan participants who are planning an internship in Saxony. The ASiiA Coordinating office in Saxony is not legally certified to advise on these matters. Therefore, these answers are based on experiences and information provided by the German Consulate in Vancouver's website and past ASiiA participants. For the most accurate information, please contact the German Consulate in Vancouver at info@vancouver.diplo.de

1. Which visa should I apply for?

As an ASiiA Program participant and a Canadian Citizen, you should apply for the [Youth Mobility Visa](#) for the duration of your time in Germany (including internship and pre/post travels).

2. Which documents do I need to submit for my application?

You must submit all documents outlined on the following [checklist](#). PLEASE READ THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY.

Note: The "Application Form" on this list refers to the "[Visa Application Form for a Resident's Permit](#)" listed under *YMA visa: forms and downloads* section found [here](#).

3. In the Youth Mobility Visa Checklist it states that I must include the following:

Please refer to the category according to the Memorandum:

- 2a) Employment contract of the German company limited for up to one year, or*
- 2b) Internship contract of the German company limited for up to one year, or*
- 2c) Enrolment letter of your Canadian university and a Signed letter of motivation, or*
- 2d) Signed letter of motivation, travel plans etc.*

Which of these items should I include?

You are only required to submit one of the above four options. The ASiiA Coordinating offices in both Saxony and Alberta will provide you with the following documents to meet this requirement:

- ASiiA Internship Agreement (this would be the internship contract listed in 2b)
- Letter of Acknowledgement
 - This letter is addressed directly to the consulate and states that you are a participant in the ASiiA program and have a placement with a host organization for the agreed upon time stated in your internship agreement.
- An enrolment letter from the University of Alberta stating that you are a participant in the ASiiA program.

These 3 items are sufficient for the above portion of your visa application. However, if you are interested in applying for a visa that is longer than your internship (i.e. your internship is 4 months but you would like to apply for a 12 month visa), it may be beneficial to include a letter of motivation for your plans for after your internship ends since you will no longer be in the ASiiA program at that time.



4. In the Youth Mobility Checklist I am asked for *Proof of First Housing*, but I haven't found accommodation in Saxony yet, can I still apply for my YM visa?

Yes, you can still apply for your visa. However, you will need to include proof that you have somewhere to stay for at least your first night in Saxony. This could be a hotel/hostel reservation, or address and contact information for a friend that you will be staying with (you must include a letter of invitation from your friend along with a photocopy of their passport).

5. How long does it take to receive my visa?

Assuming you have included all of the required documents and have accurately provided all necessary information, the consulate website indicates that you will receive your visa within 10-14 days. However, this can often be completed quicker as it takes on average 2 business days to process + mail time which can lead to approximately 7-9 days. We recommend that you apply for your visa as soon as you have all of your required documents and necessary information to avoid any delay in the process. This timeframe is not guaranteed as it depends entirely on the accuracy and completeness of your application and the time it takes to process and deliver the visa.

Please note if you are sending your application by mail:

You MUST include your physical passport with your application. Therefore, we recommend using express post and receiving a tracking number to ensure you are aware of your package's whereabouts. We DO NOT recommend "adding signature" to the postage delivery as there is no official person to sign for the package at the consulate and this could cause delays.

Whether you are applying via mail or in-person in Vancouver, you must provide return postage along with your application, if you do not; the consulate will wait to receive this postage before sending you your visa, causing further delays.

6. Is it best to apply via mail or in person?

This decision is entirely up to you. If you would like to apply in-person, you must book an appointment with the German Consulate in Vancouver ahead of time (this could take up to 4 weeks). Please ensure you bring all required documents with you. The consulate will then mail you your visa using postage that you provide them at your appointment. The benefit of applying in-person is that you can apply for a visa for up to one year without a need to extend your visa upon your arrival in Germany (unless you decide to extend your visa after your arrival in Saxony).

If you apply for your YMV via mail, it is important that you know that the consulate will only issue a visa for a maximum 3 month period from the time you enter the EU. If you need to extend your visa for the duration of your internship (or up to one year) you may do so upon your arrival in Saxony. This extension will cost an additional 100 Euros. If you need to extend your visa, it is important that you meet with the Foreign Affairs Office in your respective city in Saxony within your first week of arrival. This is because it can take up to 3 months to process your extension with 2-3 appointments. The benefits of applying via mail is that it is often quicker (while you are in Canada) since you do not need to book an appointment at the consulate in Vancouver, and applying via mail could potentially be less expensive since you do not have to fly to Vancouver.

Please note if you apply via mail: you must use Express Canada post, not a private company, as requested by the German Consulate in Vancouver.

If you have further questions, please contact the [German Consulate in Vancouver](mailto:info@vancouver.diplo.de) directly at info@vancouver.diplo.de. (Email is much quicker than trying to reach them by phone. They will often respond within 2 business days)